

RED RIVER


 PARENTAL ADVISORY
 MATURE
 CONTENT

17

story and art by

Chie Shinohara



RED RIVER 17



Chie Shinohara

VIZ

shojo

RED RIVER.

Yuri, a teen of the 21st century, has been transported to ancient Anatolia as part of a scheme by the evil Nakia, Queen of the Hitites. Only the intervention of Nakia's stepson, Prince Kall, saved Yuri from the Queen's bloodthirsty intentions. As an unintended consequence, the people of Anatolia are now convinced that Yuri is the incarnation of the great war-goddess Ishtar.

While Kall is away from Hitites, his commander Rasafa is accused of attacking a noblewoman, and, on Nakia's suggestion, is subjected to a brutal test of innocence. News then comes from Ugarit, a nation allied to the Hitites, that Kall's brother is missing. Yuri goes to investigate and finds that the King of Ugarit has received a letter from Nakia that's turned him against Kall. As for the people of Ugarit, they're convinced they're about to be slaughtered—not by their conquest-hungry neighbors the Egyptians, but by the Hitites!


Over 15 million copies sold in Japan!

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 This book reads
 from right to left

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RED RIVER™

vol.17

Yuri, a typical junior high student, is sucked into a puddle and emerges in the ancient Hittite Empire! Evil Queen Nakia has drawn Yuri across time and space to be a sacrifice to her god, Teshub. Rescued by the handsome but arrogant Prince Kail, Yuri falls in love with him and willingly gives up all chance to return home. Acclaimed as the incarnation of the war goddess Ishtar by the Hittite people, Yuri strives to live up to their hopes and her own dreams by supporting Kail, who has now assumed the Hittite throne.

Controlled by Nakia's black water, Rusafa has kidnapped Yuri and brought her to Urhi, Nakia's chief henchman. Suspecting Nakia's hand in this, Kail announces that he will offer a public prayer requesting Yuri's safe return. If this doesn't happen, Nakia will be sacrificed to appease the gods. In order to save Nakia, Urhi leaves a clue to Yuri's whereabouts that her aides quickly act on. Urhi then leaves Yuri with the befuddled and besotted Rusafa, telling him that he now has the opportunity to do as he wishes with his beloved Ishtar. But Urhi's expectations are thwarted by Rusafa's sense of honor and reverence, for he is found only kissing Yuri's feet. While Rusafa is brought to his senses Yuri rushes back to the palace to a surprised but pleased Ibbari. Curiously, he asks her if she can swim.

As Kail offers his prayer at the temple, Yuri emerges from the temple's spring. The citizens witness this seeming miracle and, to Nakia's outrage, begin cheering Yuri as Tawannana. Later, Kail tells the senate he wishes to marry Yuri. While many senators object, Nakia unexpectedly says she will support the union – if Yuri leads the Hittite armies to victory over Egypt. Yuri accepts the commission, even though she's certain it's a pretext for another of Nakia's schemes.



Story Thus Far:



Mursili II

The former Crown Prince Kail, now king of the Hittite Empire.



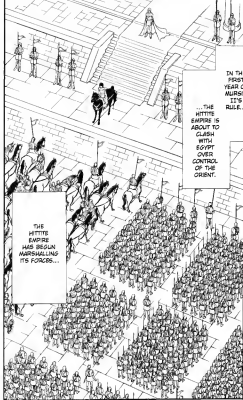
Yuri

A Japanese schoolgirl magically transported to the ancient Hittite Empire.



Queen Nakia

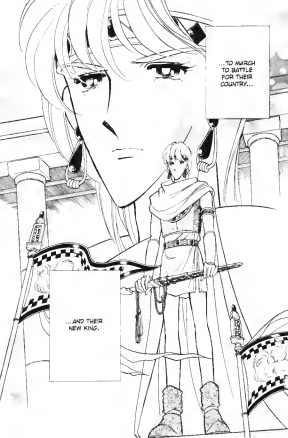
Kail's stepmother, an evil sorceress determined to see her own son on the Hittite throne.



THE
HITTITE
EMPIRE
HAS BEGUN
MARSHALLING
ITS FORCES...

...THE
HITTITE
EMPIRE IS
ABOUT TO
CLASH
WITH
EGYPT
OVER
CONTROL
OF THE
ORIENT.

IN THE
FIRST
YEAR OF
MURSHILU
II'S
RULE...



...TO MARCH
TO BATTLE
FOR THEIR
COUNTRY...

...AND THEIR
NEW KING.



YURI
ISHTAR
IS THE
DAL
MESHEG!...

...COMMANDER
OF THE
EMPIRE'S
ROYAL
FORCES.

HIS
EXCELLENCY
WILL BE HERE
SHORTLY TO
REVIEW HIS
TROOPS!

I WANT EACH
UNIT TO
ORGANIZE IN
FILES AND
PROCEED!

TRUMP

SHIBBAS,
CHIEF OF
ARCHERY.



KASH,
CHIEF OF
CHARIOTS.



TRUMP

TRUMP

TRUMP



MITTANNANWA,
CHIEF OF
INFANTRY.



SHIBBAS

SHIBBAS



S-SORRY,
ISHWAR!

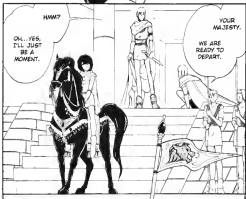


ARCHERY
UNIT!
FORM
UP!

OH, TO
HAVE
RUSAGA
BACK!



THE NEW
CHIEF'S SO
GREEN



HMM?

OH...YES,
I'LL JUST
BE A
MOMENT.

YOUR
MAJESTY.

WE ARE
READY TO
DEPART.





I
KNOW.

BUT NOW
MY DEATH
CAN ONLY
OCCUR
ON THE
BATTLEFIELD.

IF IT
HAPPENS
ANYWHERE
ELSE, NINGA
WILL BRING
MORE
TROUBLE ON
HERSELF
THAN SHE
WANTS.

SO DON'T
WORRY,
KAIL.



...
AND
THE
LAST,
I'D
SAY...

I MUST BE
THE FIRST
KING TO HAVE
BEEN KISSED
LIKE THIS
BY HIS
COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF.



KAL
MUST BE
REINSTATING
HIM AS THE
ARCHERY
CHIEF!

IT MUST
BE ABOUT
RUSAF!

WILL
YOU
COME
WITH ME,
YURI?

THERE'S A
MATTER I
NEED TO
ATTEND
TO BEFORE
I GO.

OF
COURSE.

CHIEF!

**DON'T
BE SILLY,
SHIBBAS.**

**MY DEMOTION
WAS
MANDATED BY
THE SENATE.**

**CHIEF
RUSAFAT!**

**I REG
YOU TO
RETURN
TO OUR
UNIT!**

WHAT?

**YOU
SHOULD BE
LEADING
YOUR UNIT.**

**BUT WAR
WITH
EGYPT IS
IMMINENT.**

**YOU
KNOW
I
CAN'T.**

**IT'S CLEAR
I'M NOT
ABLE TO
TAKE YOUR
PLACE!**



I...I'M
SIMPLY
NOT THE
UNIT
LEADER
HE IS!

YOUR
MAJESTY,
PLEASE
REINSTATE
RUSAF!

YOUR
MAJESTY!

GENTLE-
MEN, I'M
PLEASED
YOU'RE ALL
HERE.

PRINCESS
YURI!



...AND
GET TO
WORK.

THE
ARCHERY
UNIT IS
YOURS,
SHUBBAS.
SO STOP
COMPLAIN-
ING...



RUSAF
IS AN
ABLE
LEADER...

...BUT
MILITARY
UNITS CAN
NEVER
DEPEND ON
JUST ONE
MAN.



SO
HE'S
NOT
REINSTATING
RUSAF?



...LEADING
THE
ARCHERY
UNIT ARE
OVER.

RUSAFÄ...

...YOUR
DAYS...

O...
OVER?

YOUR
MAJESTY,
I MUST
OBJECT...

KAILI

AS OF
TODAY...

WHAT IS HE
THINKING?

...I WANT YOU
TO FILL THE
POSITION OF
THE ROYAL
ARMY'S...

...DEPUTY
COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF.

ISHTAR'S
AIDE...

WILL
YOU
ACCEPT
?

YOU WILL
BE YOUR
ISHTAR'S
AIDE.

OF
COURSE,
YOUR
MAJESTY!

A black and white manga-style illustration. In the foreground, a character with dark hair tied in a ponytail is bowing deeply, their back to the viewer. They are wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt and dark pants. In the background, a man with long, dark hair is looking down at the bowing character with a slight smile. A jagged speech bubble points from the bowing character towards the man.

YES, SIR!

A black and white manga-style illustration showing a close-up of a character's face. The character has light-colored, wavy hair and is looking slightly to the side with a subtle, confident expression. A large, oval speech bubble is positioned in front of their face.

I WILL BE
EXPECTING A
GREAT DEAL
FROM YOU!



I'LL
SEE YOU
SOON,
RUSAFÄ.

THAT'S
ALL,
GENTLE-
MEN.

I'LL BE
BACK IN
ABOUT TEN
DAYS.

WE
HAVE
LOTS
TO TALK
ABOUT.



WACK!



BETTER
HIM THAN
SHUBBAS.
EH, KASH?

STOP IT.

WELL
NOW...

...WHO'S HIS
MAJESTY'S
FAIR-HAIRED
BOY?



WHEW!

I KNOW KAIL
TRUSTS
RUSAFÄ TO
SEE TO MY
SAFETY...

...BUT I HAD NO
IDEA HE'D ALSO
RECEIVE SUCH A
WELL-DESERVED
PROMOTION!



NO, I
SHOULDN'T.

WE'VE
GOTTA
CELE-
BRATE!

THERE'S
A NEW
BAR IN
TOWN,
AND...



I'M
STILL
UNDER
SENATE
PROBATION.

PUBLIC
CAROUSING
ON MY PART
COULD RAISE
EYEBROWS,
AND LEAD TO
TROUBLE FOR
HIS MAJESTY
AND PRINCESS
YURI.

WHY
NOT?

HUM?



SURE.

NOW
I'D BETTER
GO MAKE
PREPARATIONS
FOR THE
TRANSFER.

CAN'T
ARGUE
WITH
THAT.

NEXT TIME,
THOUGH, THE
FIRST ROUND'S
ON YOU.



HIS
SKILLS
CAN
NOW BE
PUT TO
REAL
USE!

RUSAFAY'S
NOW MY
DEPUTY!

I'M SURE
NAKIA'S
HATCHING NEW
PLOTS EVEN
NOW, BUT SHE
WON'T FIND ME
EASY PICKINGS!





YOU ARE...

HERE,
LET ME
HELP
YOU.



I'D BE
HAPPY TO,
WHERE IS
YOUR
HOUSE?



UH...
I HAVE A
RAIN IN MY
CHEST.

WILL YOU
PLEASE
WALK ME
HOME?



HUM?

YES...
I MEAN,
I WAS.

...CORRECT
?

...RUSAPA,
CHIEF OF
THE
ARCHERS...



I SEE.

IF YOU
ARE
RUSAPA...









BY
THE
QUEEN
POWER!

SHE'S...
...BEING
CONTROLLED!



THAT'S
RIDICULOUS!
IT CAN'T BE
TRUE!

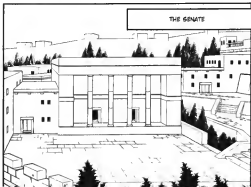
RUSAF
ATTACKED A
WOMAN ON
THE STREET?



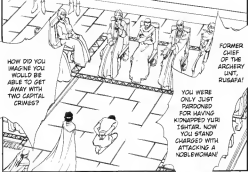
YOU'RE TO
ATTEND IN
YOUR
CAPACITY
AS DAL
MEHEDI!

OF
COURSE
IT CAN'T!

BUT THE SENATE
IS SET TO TRY
HIM FOR THE
CRIME!



THE SENATE



HOW DID YOU
IMAGINE YOU
WOULD BE
ABLE TO GET
AWAY WITH
TWO CAPITAL
CRIMES?

FORMER
CHIEF
OF THE
ARCHERY
UNIT,
RUSAFA!

YOU WERE
ONLY JUST
PARDONED
FOR HAVING
KIDNAPPED YURI
ISHTAR. NOW
YOU STAND
CHARGED WITH
ATTACKING A
NOBLEWOMAN!



PLEASE
EXPLAIN
AGAIN
WHAT
HAPPENED,
MY DEAR.

BUT
THIS
INJURY
TO MY
DAUGHTER
CANNOT BE
DISMISSED!

BELIEVE
ME, WE
WISH TO
CONDEMN
NO ONE
OUT OF
HAND!

AND TRY
HIM WE
WILL,
ISHTAR!



YOU'RE
HERE
TO TRY
RUSAFA,
NOT
CONDEMN
HIM!

SENATORS,
PLEASE
WAIT!



...TORE MY
CLOTHES
AND PINNED
ME TO THE
GROUND!

YES...

...THAT
MAN...

WHY NOT
HAVE THE
MATTER
DECIDED
UNDER THE
SCORCHING
SUN?

ACCORDING TO
THE LAW,
WE MUST
EXECUTE...

WAIT!

UNTIL
LATELY
RUSAFIA'S
CONDUCT
WAS ABOVE
REPROACH!
WHY
HAS THAT
CHANGED?

WHAT
DOES IT
MATTER?
MY
DAUGHTER
HAS BEEN
VIOLATED!

HER
EYES!

SHE'S
BEING
CONTROLLED
BY NUKIA!

MUR-
MUR

YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!

MURMUR
MURMUR

...IF THIS
MAN IS
GUILTY OF
THIS
HEINOUS
CRIME.

WE MAY
LET THE
GODS
DECIDE...

NAKED
BUTTS IN
AGAIN!

...NO ONE
HAS EVER
SURVIVED
IT.

IT...
IT'S A WAY OF
DETERMINING
A SUSPECT'S
GUILT, BUT...

WHAT
DOES SHE
MEAN?

SO THAT'S IT



SHE
DOESN'T
EVEN
CARE
THAT I
SEE
THROUGH
HER!



YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!

WHY
DO YOU
PLAGUE
~~PERHAPS~~
LIKE
THIS?

IT'S
MY LIFE
YOU
WANT!



I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

YOU
MUST BE
CONFUSED,
OR PERHAPS
YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT LOSING
YOUR DEPUTY
JUST BEFORE
GOING TO WAR.





SHE CAN
MANEUVER
ME INTO ANY
SITUATION
SHE LIKES...

...AND WITH
RUSAGA
PREVENTED
FROM
ACCOMPANYING
ME...

...I'LL BE
FAR MORE
VULNERABLE
TO WHATEVER
SHE HAS
PLANNED
FOR ME ON
THE BATTLE-
FIELD.

DESTROYING
RUSAGA
HIMSELF
IS JUST
ICING
ON THE
CAKE!

Y...
YES,
MAMA.

TAKE HIM
TO THE
TEST
SITE.

AS DAL
MESHEDI,
I WILL NOT
ALLOW THIS!

DON'T!

EVEN
THE DAL
MESHEDI
CANNOT
OVERRULE
ME.

OR
PERHAPS...

...I
HOLD THE
HIGHEST
POSITION
OF
AUTHORITY
IN
HATTUSA.

YOU
FORGET I
AM THE
TARKAN-
NANA.

IN THE
KING'S
ABSENCE
...



THE KING'S
CONCUBINE...
OVERRIDE...

... YOU'RE
SUGGESTING
THAT YOU ...

... THE
KING'S
CONCUBINE,
CAN
OVERRIDE
THE TAWAN-
NANG?

ENOUGH
OF THIS!
TAKE HIM
AWAY!

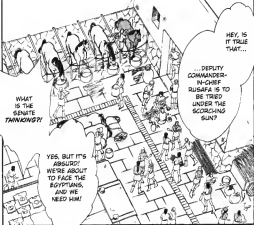




THE
PRINCE
ZANNANZA
AND URSULA
ALL DIED
BECAUSE
OF YOU!
NOW YOU
WOULD CLAIM
RUGAPAT!

NAKIA
YOU
MURDEROUS
HAG!

WELL,
NO MORE!
I AM NOW
YOUR
NEMESIS!



WHAT
IS THE
SENATE
TALKING??

HEY, IS
IT TRUE
THAT...

...DEPUTY
COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF
RUSAFU IS TO
BE TRIED
UNDER THE
SCORCHING
SUN?

YES, BUT IT'S
ABSURD!
WE'RE ABOUT
TO FACE THE
EGYPTIANS,
AND WE
NEED HIM!

...SURVIVED
SUCH A TRIAL!
IT'S A DEATH
SENTENCE!

ACQUITTED?
NO ONE'S
EVER...

BUT IT'S A
TRIAL. HE
MIGHT BE
ACQUITTED.

...DOING
ANYTHING TO
STOP THIS
FARCE?

IS THE
COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF...

ILBANI!

ILBANI!

WHAT
EXACTLY
IS THIS
TRIAL?

WHAT
KIND OF
ORDEAL
IS IT?

I KNOW
IT'S MEANT
TO SEEK A
DIVINE
RULING ON
GUILT OR
INNOCENCE,
BUT...

...I'M TOLD
NO ONE HAS
EVER
SURVIVED
THE TEST
ITSELF.

PRINCESS
YURI?

...LASH
THE
ACCUSED
TO THE
GROUND
AND SEE...

WHAT
THEY DO
IS...

...IF HE CAN
SURVIVE
FOR FIVE
DAYS.

THAT'S
HOW THE
TRIAL
WORKS.

IF HE
DIES,
HE
WILL BE
DECLARED
GUILTY.

IF HE
MANAGES
TO FREE
HIMSELF,
HE WILL
BE FOUND
INNOCENT.

WIP

??

...SURVIVE
FOR
FIVE DAYS
UNDER SUCH
CONDITIONS...

...BUT
A VERY
STRONG
MAN
SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO...

IT'S
SENSE-
LESS...

A
LEATHER
STRAP
STRETCHES
WHEN IT'S
WET.

YOU
KNOW
THAT,
DON'T
YOU?

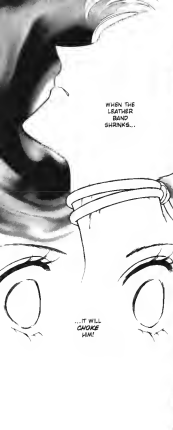
STRETCH

DOWN

WAD'S
LEATHER
HAIR TIE,
BUT...

DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT
THIS IS?

WAD'S



WHEN THE
LEATHER
BAND
SHRINKS...

...IT WILL
CHANCE
HIM!



SO IT
SHRINKS
WHEN IT'S
DRY.

RIGHT...



...WITH
WET
LEATHER
THINGS.

AN
ACCUSED
PERSON
UNDERGOING
THE TRIAL IS
TIED BY HIS
NECK AND
LIMBS...

HIS
NECK...





...AS ARE
THOSE WHO
SAY NO
ONE'S EVER
SURVIVED.

YOU'RE
RIGHT...

THAT'S
HOR-
RIBLE!

THE SUMMER IS
HOT AND DRY!
HE DOESN'T
STAND A
CHANCE!



NO MAN
COULD
TEAR
HIMSELF
FREE FROM
THEM, WET
OR DRY.

THE LASHINGS
ARE THE SAME
AS THOSE
USED TO
RESTRAIN
LIONS.



PRINCESS
YURI...

THE
TRIAL
IS ...

...TO ALL
INTENTS
AND
PURPOSES,
AN
EXECUTION.



THEY
CAN'T DO
THAT,
PRINCESS
YURI.

I'LL GO
TO THE
SENATE!

I'LL DO
WHATEVER I
MUST TO
CONVINCE THE
SENATORS TO
HALT THIS
HORROR!

ONLY HIS
MAJESTY
HAS THE
CAPACITY TO
RESCUE IT.

THE TRIAL
IS BY
ORDER OF
THE QUEEN
POWAGER.



YES,
MA'AM.



SEND A
MESSENGER
ANYWAY!



THE
TRIAL
TAKES
PLACE
TOMOR-
ROW.
IT
WILL
BE
TOO
LATE.



THEN
SEND A
MESSENGER
TO KAIL!

TELL HIM HE
MUST RETURN
TO HITTUSA
IMMEDI-
ATELY!



I WON'T
LET NAKIA
MURDER
ANOTHER
INNOCENT
PERSON!
I WON'T!

THIS IS
WRONG.
THIS IS SO
WRONG!
NAKIA
WANTS
RUSAFU
OUT OF THE
WAY SO
IT'S EASIER
FOR HER
TO KILL ME!

MANY
SENATORS
DOUBT HIS
GUILT!
BUT THEY
WON'T STOP
THE TRIAL!



IT'S
TIME I
PREPARED
YOUR
BED...

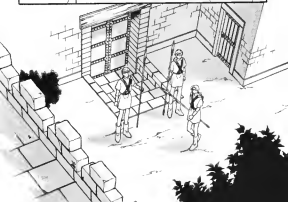
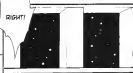
SQUEAK

PRIN-
CESS
YURI.

KNOCK KNOCK



SWP







NAKIA KNOWS
YOU WELL
ENOUGH TO
EXPECT YOU TO
TRY THIS. DON'T
PLAY INTO HER
HANDS.

PRINCESS
YURL...

...THIS IS
NOT AT ALL
ADVISABLE.

DON'T FORGET
THAT YOUR
ACTIONS WILL
AFFECT HIS
MAJESTY'S
POSITION.

THIS IS
NOT
ABOUT
URSULA.

!!

I WON'T
STAND BY
AND WATCH
IT HAPPEN!

BUT THIS
IS URSULA
ALL OVER
AGAIN.
ILBANI!

HE'S
RIGHT...

...I MUSTN'T
DO ANYTHING THAT
MIGHT HURT KAIL.

SLUMP

BUT WHY DOES IT COME
DOWN TO EITHER THAT
OR LETTING ONE OF MY
DEAREST FRIENDS DIE?





...

HE'LL
MAKE
IT.

I'M
SURE
ISHGAR
WILL
SAVE
HIM.

YES, I'M
SURE SHE
WILL.

THAT
POOR,
POOR
SOUL.

GOING
TO TRIAL
UNDER THE
SCORCHING
SUN.

THAT
MESA'S
THE
TRIAL
SITE?

YES.
DO YOU
WISH
TO GO
THERE?

I...
I DO!

TAKE
ME
THERE!





THE
GUARDS...

...WILL BIND
RUSAFÄ, THEN
COME DOWN
AND TAKE THE
LADDERS
AWAY.

LADDERS?



THE
GUARDS
WILL WAIT
AT THE
FOOT OF
THE MESA.

YES, TO
MAKE
SURE NO
TRIES TO
RESCUE
HIM...

THEY'LL
LEAVE
HIM A
ROPE...

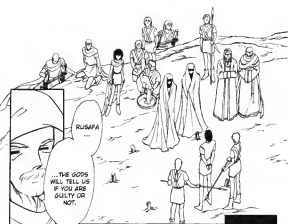
...SO HE CAN
GET DOWN IF
HE MANAGES
TO FREE
HIMSELF.



NO!
I WANT TO
GO UP TO
THE SITE!

KNO

DID YOU
WANT TO
WAIT
DOWN
HERE?





HOW DO I
THWART YOU,
NAKIA?
HOW DO I
STOP YOUR
EVIL?

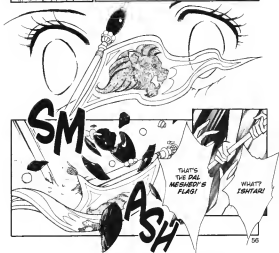
I CAN
ONLY
WATCH.





WHAT
NEED DOES
IT SATISFY
IN YOU...

...TO DESTROY
AN INNOCENT
MAN BY SUCH
TERRIBLE
MEANS?

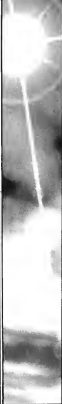












STAY
STRONG,
MY FRIEND,
AND RETURN
TO US!

ALL I CAN
DO NOW IS
PRAY...

...THAT
RUSAGA
MAKES IT.



444

KEV

KEV



THE
SCORCHING
SUN...

...OF
ANATOLIA
WILL MAKE
SHORT WORK
OF BULGARIA.

...THE
CLOSER
YURI AND
KAIL DRAW
TO THE
ULTIMATE
PLACE...
OF THE
TOMB

THE
MORE
LOYAL
AIDES
THEY
LOSE...



CREAK

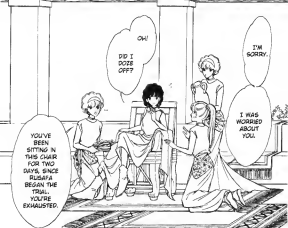
...YURI...

YURI

...YURI...

...PRINCESS
YURI!

GASP



YOU'VE BEEN SITTING IN THIS CHAIR FOR TWO DAYS, SINCE RUSAGA BEGAN THE TRIAL. YOU'RE EXHAUSTED.

OH!
DID I DOZE OFF?

I'M SORRY.

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.



NEITHER HAS RUSAGA.

NO.

I'LL WAIT HERE FOR RUSAGA'S RETURN.

EAT SOMETHING AT LEAST.

YOU HAVE TAKEN NO FOOD OR DRINK FOR TWO DAYS.

PRINCESS YURI...

...PLEASE, YOU MUST GET SOME REST.



I KNOW
RUSAPA
WILL COME
BACK
ALIVE.

I WANT
TO WAIT
FOR HIM
HERE.



MY
FAULT?
NO...

...BUT I
OWE THE
KING MY
VIGILANCE.



I'M
SORRY.

FOR
WHAT?

I
COULDN'T
STOP
THE TRIAL.

IT'S NOT
YOUR
FAULT!

THE
FIRST
WAS
TITO...

...A
FINE BOY,
MEANT
TO LEAD
HIS TRIBE
WHEN HE
WAS OF
AGE.

TITO
!!



THEN
PRINCE
ZAMMANZA
WAS KILLED.

HA
HA
HA

HA
HA

I AM THE
TAKANNAGA
OF THIS
EMPIRE!

I
ANSWER
TO NO
ONE BUT
THE
KING!!

OM
P

SK
O





I'LL DIE
WISHING
THAT ONE
DAY...

AND
URSULA.

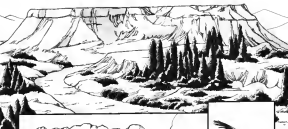
...AND
PRINCESS
YURI WILL
STAND
BESIDE HIM
AS QUEEN.

...PRINCE
KAIL WILL
ASCEND
TO THE
THRONE...

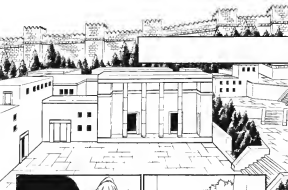


...AND
HER
DESIRE
TO GET
AT ME!

ALL
BECAUSE
OF NAKIA'S
(COLD-)
BLOODED
THRST
FOR
POWER...







PRINCESS YURI!

PRINCESS YURI!



HE CAN'T
BE BACK
SO SOON!

WHAT DO
YOU
MEAN?

YURI!

I RECEIVED
YOUR
MESSAGE AT
THE BORDER
AND RUSHED
BACK.

WHERE
IS HE?
WHERE'S
RUSAFAT?

KALI!



YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY...

...I
DIDN'T
KNOW
YOU
WERE
BACK.



CONVENE
THE
SENATE
AT ONCE!

AND
SUMMON
THE QUEEN
DOWAGER!



SHOULD YOU
HAVE LEFT
HER BEFORE
SHE REACHED
THE BORDER?

YOU WERE
ESCORTING
THE ASSYRIAN
PRINCESS
TO SHOW
GOODWILL
TO AN ALLY.



HOW
DARE
YOU!



Y...YOUR
MAJESTY!





OH,
I DO
HOPE
RUSAGA
HAS
MANAGED
TO HOLD
OUT.

THAT IS
FOR YOU
TO
DECIDE,
YOUR
MAJESTY.



SHE FULLY
EXPECTS
RUSAGA
TO HAVE DIED
BY NOW!

SUCH
BLATANT
HYPO-
CRISY!



YOUR
MAJESTY
!

PRINCESS
YURI!

GUARDS!
BRING
RUSAGA
TO ME!



QUIET,
YOUR
MOTHER,
WE'LL
DISCUSS
GOODWILL
LATER.

RIGHT
NOW I WISH
TO ADDRESS
THE
PRECIPITATE
MANNER IN
WHICH YOU
AND THE
SENATE
DEALT WITH
RUSAGA.

I AM
GOING TO
HAVE HIM
TAKEN
DOWN OFF
THE MESA.









HE
SHOULD
HAVE
CHOKED
TO DEATH
BY NOW!

HOW
CAN
THIS
BE?
FREE-
ING
ONE-
SELF
IS
IMPOS-
SIBLE!



... BECAUSE
THIS CASE
AGAINST HIM
IS NOW
CLOSED.
FOR GOOD!

RUSABA
HAS MADE
A SAFE
RETURN.
THE GODS
HAVE
PRONOUNCED
HIM
INNOCENT.

I TRUST
EVERYONE IS
PLEASED
WITH THE
OUTCOME...



THEREFORE
THE TRIAL
OF SUCH
PERSONNEL,
BY YOU OR THE
SENATE, WILL BE
CONDUCTED ONLY
IN MY PRESENCE.
OR IT WILL BE
CONSIDERED AN
ACT OF TREASON.

YOUR
HIGHNESS...

...AT TIMES LIKE
THIS THE
EMPIRE'S ROYAL
ARMY NEEDS
EVERY ABLE
OFFICER AT ITS
DISPOSAL.

YURI!

RUSAFÄ IS
BACK...

PHEW

GRAB

PORT





SO YOU
SECRETED
IT ON
YOURSELF
SOMEHOW.

IT MAKES A
GOOD KNIFE
WHEN
SHARPENED,
BUT THIS
BIT'S STILL
ROUGH.

WHAT'S
THIS?

A PIECE OF
OBSIDIAN?

I HAVE NO
TALENT
FOR SUCH
SUBTLETY.

SLAP

BUT IT
COULD
STILL CUT
THROUGH
LEATHER
GIVEN
ENOUGH
TIME.

...GAVE
THIS TO ME
BEFORE
SHE LEFT
THE MEGA.

PRINCESS
YURI...



AND

SHE GAVE
IT TO YOU
WHEN...

YOU
MEAN AT
THE
TRIAL
SITE?

WHEN COULD
SHE HAVE
DONE THAT?

... SHE
KISSED
YOU!



SHE
SHAT-
TERED
THE
OBISDIAN
FINAL
ON THE
FLAG-STAFF
AND SLIPPED
YOU THAT
SHARD!

AND
WHAT
QUICK
THINKING!

HOW
CLEVER!









IT TOOK A
LONG TIME
TO FREE
MYSELF,
BUT ONCE
I DID I
USED THE
ROPE...

...TO
DESCEND
FROM THE
MEGA.







AT THAT
MOMENT...

...I
WOULD
HAVE
DIED
WITH A
FULL
HEART.



SOMEDAY...
SOMEDAY...

...I WILL
GIVE UP MY
LIFE FOR
HER.
I OWE HER
THAT.



..TO
SERVE AS
TAWANNANA.

KAL...

KAL...

...I'M STILL
NOT SURE
THAT I'M
WORTHY...





...TO HAVE
SUCH
THOUGHTS?

IS IT
WRONG
...



FOR
BETTER
THINGS?
NO...



BUT I
CAN'T
FORGIVE
NARU...

...OR
TOLERATE
HER
AUTHORITY.
IF SHE IS
REMOVED
FROM THAT
POSITION...

...I WILL
ACCEPT
IT, IF IT
PLEASES
YOU.

...AS IT SHOWS
YOU'RE THINKING
SERIOUSLY ABOUT
THE EMPIRE'S
FUTURE.



...ESPECIALLY...

MORE,
THAT WE
AGREE ON
HOW THE
EMPIRE
SHOULD BE
RULED.





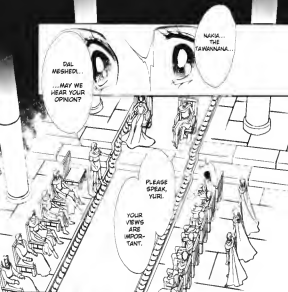
SHE
KIDNAPPED
ME FROM MY
OWN TIME...

NAKIA,
THE MOST
POWERFUL
WOMAN IN
THE EMPIRE.

KAIL WON'T
BE ABLE TO
RULE HIS
EMPIRE AS
HE WISHES
SO LONG AS
NAKIA IS THE
TAWANNANA!

...AND
CONTINUES
TO PLOT
TO PLACE
HER SON
ON THE
THRONE.

COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF...



OHL
WISHED...

...MAY WE
HEAR YOUR
OPINION?

NARUA...
THE
TA HANNANA...

PLEASE
SPEAK,
YURI.

YOUR
VIEWS
ARE
IMPOR-
TANT.



...BEFORE
MAKING
ANY
DEFINITIVE
MILITARY
MOVES.

IT IS
VITAL
THAT WE
STRENGTHEN
OUR
ALLIANCES...

I'M
SORRY.

YES, I SUPPORT
HIS MAJESTY
REGARDING
THE COMING
CONFRONTATION
WITH EGYPT.

NOTHING
LIKE
BEING
FORCED
TO STATE
THE
OBVIOUS!

HOWEVER,
HIS
MAJESTY'S
MILITARY
STRATEGY
TAKES
PRECEDENCE
OVER MY
PERSONAL
GOALS

YOU
KNOW
I AM,
HIGH-
NESS

DEFEATING
EGYPT...

...WOULD
INDEED BE
A BOON
FOR ME...

...AND
NAKIA.

YOU'VE
MUCH TO
GAIN IF,
AS OUR
COMMANDER-
IN-CHIEF,
YOU BRING
US VICTORY
OVER THE
EGYPTIANS.

ARE
YOU NOT
ANXIOUS TO
UNDERTAKE
THE
MISSION?





AS I
HAVE SAID
REPEATEDLY,
I PREFER
WAR ONLY
AS A LAST
RESORT.



I WOULD
LIKE TO
WAIT FOR
MALI'S
REPORT
ON THE
MOVEMENTS
OF EGYPTIAN
TROOPS
BEFORE I
MAKE ANY
DECISION.



I HAVE
APPOINTED
MY BROTHER,
MALI PYASLI,
THE
MAYOR OF
KARKENISH,
AS THE
FRONTLINE
COMMANDER
AND
DISPATCHED
HIM TO
UGARIT.



GOOD
CHOICE,
KAL.

PRINCE
PYASLI
AS THE
FRONTLINE
COMMANDER.

HEY!
THE
SENATE
IS IN
SESSION.

I KNOW,
SIR! BUT A
COURIER'S
BROUGHT AN
URGENT
MESSAGE
FROM
KARKENISH!

I HAVE A
REPORT,
SIR!

B
A

N
G

F
W
O
O
M
P

WHAT
?!

HE REPORTS
THAT PRINCE
PYAGLI
HAS GONE
MISSING IN
MOUNT!





YOU
HAVE NO
RESER-
VATIONS?



KAIL...



...I
GUESS
THIS IS
IT.



UGARIT
LIES ON
THE
BORDER
WITH
EGYPT!



THE DAL
MEHEDI
WILL
HEAD
FOR
UGARIT
AT ONCE.



WE MUST
STRENGTHEN
OUR
POSITION
THERE!



HER
HIGHNESS
IS RIGHT!



NONE,
YOUR
MAJESTY.

VERY
WELL.
I HEREBY
ORDER...

...TO
LIGHT
AND
PREPARE
FOR WAR
AGAINST
EGYPT!

...THE
HITTITE
IMPERIAL
ARMY TO
ADVANCE...



REPORT TO
ME WHEN
YOU ARE
READY TO
MOVE OUT

YURI
ISHTAR,
YOU ARE IN
COMMAND
OF THE
EXPEDI-
TIONARY
FORCE.



A black and white photograph of a large crowd of people gathered on a street, possibly during a protest or rally. The crowd is dense, filling the lower two-thirds of the frame. In the background, there are buildings and a street with some vehicles. Overlaid on the image are large, stylized, overlapping letters. On the left, the word 'ROAR' is written vertically in a bold, sans-serif font. On the right, the word 'RAH' is written vertically in a similar font. The letters are white with black outlines, making them stand out against the background. The overall tone is one of intense energy and collective action.





...TO DEPLOY
TROOPS JUST
BECAUSE OF
MY PACIFISM.

I DIDN'T
HESITATE...

?!

...SEND
YOU
TO THE
BATTLE-
FIELD.

I WAS
RELUCTANT
TO...

SO DON'T
WORRY,
I'LL BE
BACK.

...LEFT
THE
DECISION
TO ME,
REMEMBER?

KAIL,
YOU...

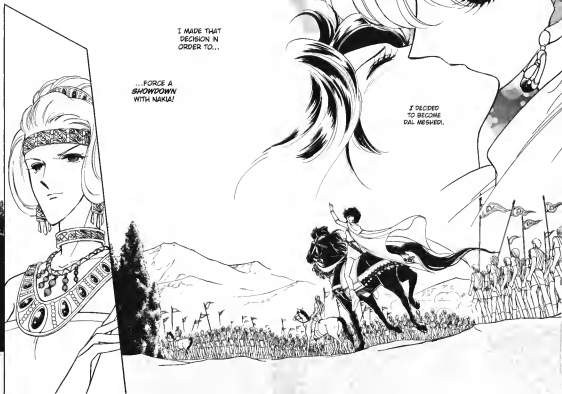


I'LL COME
TO LIGHT IT
SOON. SEE
YOU THEN.

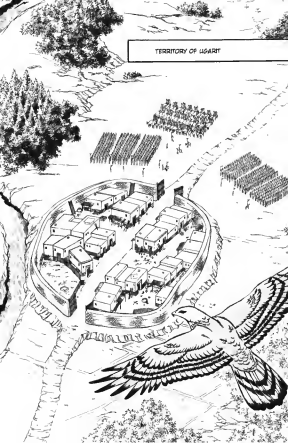
I MADE THAT
DECISION IN
ORDER TO...

...FORCE A
SHOWDOWN
WITH NAKIA!

I DECIDED
TO BECOME
DAL NESHEDI.



TERRITORY OF USART







BLACK
SEA

LAGART
IS A KEY
CENTER
OF TRADE
ON THE
BORDER
WITH
EGYPT.

LAGART

LAGART

LAGART

LAGART

LAGART

HITITE

LAGART

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

EGYPT

THEY
WOULDN'T
NORMALLY
LEAVE ANY
TOWN
DESERTED
AT A TIME
LIKE THIS.

MUCH
HAS
BEEN
DIS-
TUBBED...

...AND ALL
FOOD AND
VALUABLES
ARE GONE,
BUT THERE'S
NO SIGN OF
FIGHTING.

IT LOOKS
LIKE THE
VILLAGERS
SIMPLY
FLED.



IF
SO...

IS IT
POSSIBLE
LIGART'S
KING HAS
BETRAYED
US?

THE
EGYPTIANS
COULD JUST
MARCH RIGHT
IN HERE.



CWA
CWA



I THINK
IT'S A
MESSEN-
GER!

PRINCESS
YURI
A RIDER!

CWA
CWA



...OF
LIGART...
TO THE...
NEWLY
ARRIVED
WITTS
FORCES!

I...
I HAVE A
MESSAGE
FROM KING
ARIALBA...

CLACK

WHINNY



THAT'S
IT?

"WE
HUMBLY
AWAIT
YOUR
ARRIVAL."
THIS IS THE
MESSAGE.

"PLEASE
COME TO
THE KING'S
CASTLE."

AND
THIS
MESSAGE
IS...?



P...PLEASE,
I DON'T
KNOW!
I WAS JUST
ORDERED
TO BRING
YOU THAT
MESSAGE!

WHAT
IS ITS
PURPOSE?

AND
WHY ARE
THERE NO
PEOPLE
HERE?



IT...IT'S
LOCATED
JUST OVER
THAT HILL,
MAYBE!

ISHTAR,
Z...

WHERE
IS THE
CASTLE?



YES,
MILAD!

RUSAF,
SEND
SCOUTS TO
RECON-
NOITER!



PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME!

I HAVE TO
OBEY THE
KING'S
ORDERS, OR
MY FAMILY
WILL BE
KILLED!

WHAT?
??

I
GATHER
YOU
AREN'T A
SOLDIER,

CAN YOU
TELL ME
WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?



COULD
BE...

A
RETURNING
SCOUT?



PRINCESS
YURI!
A
HORSE IS
APPROACHING!



WHAT
ORDERS
DO YOU
MEAN?



...THERE'S
NO RIDER!

WAIT A
MOMENT...



AND IT'S
STUMBLERED
TO THE
GROUND!

THUD



A
HAND...?

PRINCESS
YURI

WHAT
THE...!!

KLAKKAKK!





OHMYGOD!



...P
POISON-
OUS...

ISM...
ISHTAR...
BE
CAREFUL...
SNAKES...



ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

WHAT
HAP-
PENED
??



DID HE
SAY
SNAKES
?



DOOM!!!



IS THAT
A SNAKE
BITE?







THEY'RE
ALL
OVER
THE
PLACE!

AND
BLOCKING
THE WAY
TO THE
CASTLE!



DO
SNAKES
SWARM,
OR WERE
THEY—

WEIRD...

...THAT
THERE'S
SO MANY.

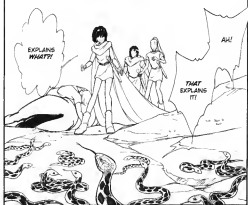


PLEASE
DON'T
DO THAT!
IT'S TOO
DAN—

PRIN-
CESS
YUR!

WHY'D
YOU RIDE
OFF?!









I'VE
NEVER
SEEN SO
MANY
SNAKES IN
ONE
PLACE.

IT
CAN'T
BE
NATURAL.

OUR SCOUTS
HAD NO IDEA
WHAT THEY
WERE RIDING
INTO.

AMAZING
!

SEE
THE
BURNT
TREEST?

THAT
KEEPS
THEM ON
THE
GROUND.

IT'S
PLAIN...

...THAT
SOMEONE
PUT THESE
SNAKES
HERE AS
A TRAP.



WOULD...

...KING
ARHALBA
HAVE DONE
THIS?



CLEARLY,
SOMETHING'S
GONE
HAYWIRE.

KAIL
ORDERED
UGARIT TO
BUILD A
DEFENSIVE
LINE IN
ANTICIPATION
OF AN
EGYPTIAN
INCURSION.

PRINCE
PIRABLI WAS
SENT HERE
TO SECURE
THE LINE,
WITH THE
COOPERATION
OF UGARIT'S
KING.



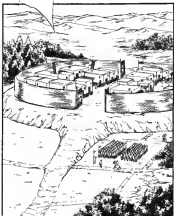
ASTORIA



WE CAN'T
HOPE TO
ESTABLISH
A GOOD
DEFENSIVE
LINE
WITHOUT
HIS HELP.

PERHAPS
HE CAN
ALSO
TELL US
ABOUT
PRINCE
PYASILL.

I MUST
MEET
KING
ARGALBA
RIGHT
AWAY!



~~~~~  
SICUTARI





I WAS TOLD  
TO WAIT  
HERE FOR  
THE HITITE  
TROOPS.

I DIDN'T  
COME FROM  
THE CASTLE,  
MA'AM.



I REALLY  
KNOW  
NOTHING  
ELSE!



LET ME  
ASK YOU  
THIS,  
THEN...

I REALLY  
DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING.  
PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
ME.

I HAVE  
NO  
IDEA,  
SIR.

DO YOU  
KNOW IF  
PRINCE  
FYASLI IS  
IN THE  
CASTLE?

THE  
KING  
ORDERED  
YOU TO  
DO  
THAT?

THEN TELL  
US ABOUT  
THE KING!  
IS HE ALL  
RIGHT?





AFTER HIS YOUNG WIFE DIED, HE NEVER REMARRIED. HIS PERSONAL LIFE...

HE IS SAID TO BE A MODERATE MAN AND IS KNOWN AS A VIRTUOUS RULER.

ONE THING'S CLEAR...

...THIS LAND IS IN THE GRIP OF SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

...IS DEVOTED TO LOOKING AFTER HIS ONLY DAUGHTER.

TELL ME ABOUT KING ARHALBA. WHAT'S HE LIKE?

RUBAFA.



ISN'T THAT THE  
OBSEDIAN  
SHARD  
PRINCESS  
YURI GAVE  
YOU THAT  
SAVED YOUR  
LIFE?

WHAT'S  
THAT?

STOP  
TUGGING!

YOU  
MUST DO  
MORE  
THAN...

YOU  
MADE A  
PENDANT  
OUT OF  
IT?

UNCA

BUT DON'T  
SHIRK YOUR  
DUTY AS HER  
DEPUTY.

...WE ALL  
KNOW YOU  
ADORE  
PRINCESS  
YURI.

I DID  
NOW  
HANDS  
OFF!

RUSA-  
FA...

YOU  
KNOW SHE  
HASN'T!  
SO IT'S  
NOT OUR  
PLACE TO  
CHALLENGE  
HER  
JUDGMENT!

BUT TELL  
ME, HAS  
PRINCESS  
YURI EVER  
MADE A  
MISTAKE IN  
THE PAST?

I KNOW  
MY DUTY,  
THANK  
YOU!



QUESTIONING  
HER, IN MY  
VIEW, IS  
TANTAMOUNT  
TO INSUBOR-  
DINATION.

AND...

MY ROLE  
AS HER  
DEPUTY  
IS...

...TO  
TRANSLATE  
HER  
INSTRUCTIONS  
INTO ACTION.

AND?

...WILL  
BE TO  
DIE FOR  
HER, IF  
NECESSARY.

I  
KNOW  
THAT...

...MY  
PARAMOUNT  
DUTY...

WAAAAA

SPLASH



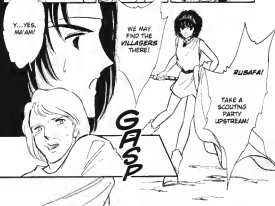
FISH

YOU AND ME BOTH, HAD.  
WE MUST FIND THE  
VILLAGERS  
AND ASK  
THEM WHAT  
HAPPENED.

THIS IS  
ALL VERY  
STRANGE,  
PRINCESS  
YURI.

I JUST  
HOPE  
PRINCE  
PIYASHI IS  
ALIVE AND  
WELL.











...SO  
FRIGHTENED  
OF US?

WHY ARE  
THESE  
PEOPLE...





YOU'RE...  
THE  
COMMANDER?

YEP.



TELL ME  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENED.



WE...WE  
WERE TOLD  
BY OUR KING  
THAT...

...THE  
HITTITES  
WERE COMING  
TO KILL US.  
AND WE WERE  
TO HIDE  
OURSELVES.



DID THEY  
CONDUCT  
THEMSELVES  
IMPROPERLY?

A HITTITE  
FORCE  
ARRIVED  
EARLIER  
FROM  
KARKEMISH



...THEY  
ENTERED  
THE  
CASTLE  
AND  
NEVER  
EMERGED.

NO!  
MAYAH  
IF YOU  
MEAN THE  
TROOPS  
LED BY  
YOUR  
PRINCE...

YEAH...

THAT  
DOESN'T  
SOUND  
GOOD.



...AND  
HAD  
THE  
GROUNDS  
OUTSIDE  
INFESTED  
WITH  
VIPERS.

AFTER  
ISSUING  
HIS  
DECREE,  
THE KING  
CONFINED  
HIMSELF  
TO HIS  
CASTLE...



...AND  
THEN  
ORDERED  
ME TO  
DELIVER  
THAT  
MESSAGE  
TO YOU.

HE ...  
HE  
TOOK  
MY  
WIFE  
AND  
DAUGHTER  
TO THE  
CASTLE...

HE SAID THE  
HITTITES  
WOULD  
MASSACRE  
OUR MEN AND  
RAPE OUR  
WOMEN.



HE  
LAMENTED  
THAT THE  
ALLIANCE  
WITH THE  
HITTITES...

...HAD  
BEEN A  
TERRIBLE  
MISTAKE.

SOMETHING'S  
TURNED KING  
ARHALBA  
AGAINST  
US...

... PRACTICALLY  
OVERNIGHT!

SOMEONE'S  
MISLED  
HIM...  
AND I BET  
I KNOW  
WHO!

THEY'RE  
RIGHT!  
THIS IS  
BAD!





YOU!  
RETRIEVE  
THOSE  
MESSAGES!

YES,  
SIR!



PIG-  
BONG?

CARRIER  
PIGEONS.  
THEY'RE USED  
TO DELIVER  
MESSAGES  
BETWEEN THE  
CASTLE AND  
THE VILLAGES.





YES,  
HE IS.

THERE'S ONE  
MESSAGE IN  
FIVE PIECES.  
SO...



WHAT  
DO  
THEY  
SAY?

IS KING  
ARHALBA  
ADDRESS-  
ING US?



HERE  
THEY ARE,  
SIR.



AH,  
HERE WE  
GO...

"KING  
ARHALBA  
OF USARIT  
DECLARES  
THE  
FOLLOW-  
ING..."

...TO THE  
COMMANDER-  
IN-CHIEF  
OF THE  
HITTITE  
FORCES."



"THE VENOMOUS SNAKES SHOULD NOT HINDER YOU."

"USE VILLAGERS TO GET RID OF THE SNAKES, AND LET THEIR DEAD BODIES..."

"...FORM A BRIDGE TO MY CASTLE. A CRUEL PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHOULD HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT DOING THIS."

"THAT'S WHAT THE MESSAGE SAYS."

"IF YOU DO NOT, I WILL EXECUTE YOUR KING'S BROTHER, PRINCE PYAGILL."

"YOU ARE TO APPEAR AT THE CASTLE BEFORE SUNSET TOMORROW."



"WHAT? HE CAN'T?"



NOW  
HE  
THINKS  
WE'RE...  
DESPICABLY  
EVIL!

KING  
ARHALBA  
WAS 'A  
LOYAL  
ALLY!



AND HE  
THINKS  
WE'D  
TRY TO  
REACH THE  
CASTLE  
THAT  
WAY...?

HE'LL  
EXECUTE  
PRINCE  
PHASLOP

HE CAN'T  
MEAN IT!  
HE MUST'VE LOST  
HIS MIND!



WE'RE  
NOT  
GOING TO  
ASK YOU  
TO DO  
ANY  
SUCH  
THING!

I'M NOT  
DOING IT!  
I WON'T!

THEY'RE  
GOING TO  
MAKE US  
REMOVE  
THE  
SNAKES  
FOR THEM.

OH, THERE'S  
NO DOUBT  
OF IT. LOOK  
AT THEM,  
PLOTING  
OUR  
DEATHS!



WE'LL  
DO IT.  
YOU  
PEOPLE  
STAY  
BACK!

NO,  
ISHTAR!

PLEASE  
LET MY  
UNIT TO  
DO THE  
JOB!

ISHTAR,  
PLEASE  
ALLOW MY  
UNIT TO  
ELIMINATE  
THE SHARKS  
FOR YOU!



ARE...  
ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?

WITH  
JOY?

IT'S THE  
LEAST YOU  
COULD ASK  
OF US!



ISHTAR,  
WE  
WOULD  
DIE FOR  
YOU!





KING  
ARHALBA

...MAY  
MEAN  
IT, BUT  
ONLY  
AS A  
TEST.

IF WE  
FIND  
ANOTHER  
WAY, HE  
MAY  
DOUBT  
HIS  
SUSPICIONS.

IF WE  
SACRIFICE  
LIVES TO  
ELIMINATE  
THE  
SHAKES...

...HE WILL  
TAKE IT AS  
PROOF THAT  
WE ARE  
HEARTLESS.



BUT  
ISHTAR...

TOO  
LATE.

ISHTAR,  
DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT US!

I'M NOT  
HAVING  
ANYONE DIE  
JUST TO  
CLEAR OUT  
SOME  
SNAKES.



...PRINCE  
PYRAMI TO  
BE EXECUTED  
BY THIS  
KING'S  
ORDER.

I WILL  
ALSO NOT  
ALLOW...



BUT  
HOW?

DO YOU  
HAVE A  
PLAN,  
ISHTAR?

YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO THE  
CASTLE?!



SMILE



I  
THINK  
I DO.

AND I  
BELIEVE  
IT WILL  
WORK.





... WITHOUT  
USING  
SOLDIERS  
OR  
VILLAGERS?

HOW  
CAN WE  
ELIMINATE  
THE  
SHAKES...

PRIN-  
CESS  
YURI?

... SOMETHING  
ELSE.

WE'LL  
SIMPLY  
USE...

PRINCESS  
YURI?

WUP



...EAT  
SNAKES,  
DON'T  
THEY?

THE  
RAPTORS  
OF THIS  
AREA...

Woo

OH!

SMILE

ALL  
RIGHT,  
SUNSHINE!

SH!

GO!





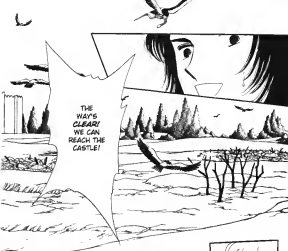




AND KAIL...  
KING MURSLI II...  
HATES  
MEANINGLESS  
BLOODSHED.

I DON'T  
KNOW HOW  
KING ARHALBA  
WAS TURNED  
AGAINST US,  
BUT HE'S  
WRONG.  
WE AREN'T A  
CRUEL PEOPLE.

I'M GOING  
TO GET  
KING  
ARHALBA  
STRONGER  
ABOUT  
THAT!



THE  
WAY'S  
CLEAR!  
WE CAN  
REACH THE  
CASTLE!



NOW I  
THINK ON  
IT...

SHE DID IT  
WITHOUT  
HURTING  
ANYONE.

...THE  
HITTERS  
HAVEN'T  
ACTUALLY  
THREATENED  
US IN ANY  
WAY!



AYE,  
ISHTARI!

HITTITES!  
TO THE  
CASTLE!

KING ARHALLBA'S CASTLE

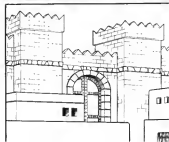
THEY  
EXPENDED  
NO LIVES  
TO DO IT!

THEY'RE  
NOW  
AT THE  
GATES!  
WHAT DO  
WE DO?

YOUR  
MAJESTY  
!

THE  
HITTITES  
ELIMINATED  
THE  
SNAKES!

YOUR  
MAJESTY  
...?







?!

INDEED,  
HAVE  
SOME  
MORE  
WINE.



YOU'RE  
FUNNY,  
AMSTER.



CRACKLE HA HA  
CRACKLE HA HA  
HA HA



LET  
ME  
GO!

SEE?



WHAT  
IS ALL  
THIS?!





THAT'S  
INSANE!

HE SAID  
THERE'S  
NO NEED  
TO FIGHT  
EGYPT  
FOR THE  
SAKE  
OF THE  
HITTITE  
EMPIRE!

OUR...  
OUR  
KING  
TOLD  
US NOT  
TO  
WORRY!



GRAB



YOU  
MEN ARE  
UGARIT  
SOL-  
DIERS!

YOU SHOULD  
BE PREPARING  
TO DEFEND  
AGAINST THE  
EGYPTIANS.  
BUT INSTEAD  
YOU STAGE  
AN UGARIT



IT'S ALL  
INSANE!

I WAS TOLD KING  
ARHALBA WAS A  
VIRTUOUS RULER  
AND LOVING  
FATHER, SO HOW  
COULD HE...

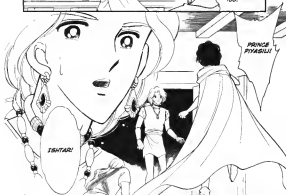
...CONDONE  
THIS?





PRINCESS  
YURI!

WE'VE  
FOUND  
PRINCE  
PYASILL  
TOO!



PRINCE  
PYASILL!





SO FARIS  
IS ESATAR,  
EH?

I'VE  
HEARD  
MUCH  
ABOUT  
YOU

??



FORGET  
IT.

JUST  
TELL ME  
WHAT  
HAPPENED.

WELL...

OH?



HOW  
AFTER ALL?



**TUP**



*Booooo*

LET ME  
EXTEND  
MY  
WELCOME  
TO YOU...

...WHOM  
THE GODS  
HAVE SENT  
TO US.

HE  
LOOKS SO  
HAGGARD...  
AND  
DISGUSTED!

THAT'S  
HIM?  
KING  
ARHALBAT?

SO THE  
CHAOS WERE  
PUZZLES  
YOUR?

EXCUSE  
ME?

...FROM  
THE  
HITTITE  
EMPEROR,  
MURSILI  
II...

YOU  
WERE  
SENT A  
MESSAGE...

YOUR  
MAJESTY!

WHAT'S THE  
MEANING OF  
ALL THIS?

WHIIISH!

I'LL  
HAVE  
YOUR  
HEAD!  
AND  
SEND IT  
BACK  
AS MY  
REPLY!

HIGH  
TY

PRINCESS  
YURI!



PLEASE  
BE STILL,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY!

LIGHT AND  
THE HITITE  
EMPIRE ARE  
ALLIES!

YOUR  
MAJESTY!

WHY  
DO YOU  
ATTACK  
ME?

...AFTER  
KILLING  
ENDRA...

...MY ONLY  
DAUGHTER!  
HOW CAN  
I POSSIBLY  
ALLY MYSELF  
WITH HER  
MURDERERS?!

ALLIES?

HOW  
COULD  
YOU SAY  
SUCH A  
THING...



HE  
BELIEVES  
THAT!

THAT'S  
RIGHT!

AND DON'T  
PRETEND  
IGNORANCE  
WITH ME!

HER  
MURDER-  
ERGH!

AND WE  
BRUTALLY  
MURDERED  
HER!

I SENT  
HER TO  
HATTUSA AS A  
PROSPECTIVE  
SPOUSAL  
CANDIDATE  
FOR YOUR  
OH-SO-NOBLE  
KING!



OH  
MY...

KING  
ARHALBA!

I'VE TOLD  
YOU TIME AND  
AGAIN THAT MY  
BROTHER WOULD  
NEVER DO  
SUCH A THING!



...AND  
THEN  
TOOK  
**SADISTIC**  
PLEASURE  
IN KILLING  
HER!

I  
KNOW  
YOUR  
WOMAN-  
IZING  
KING  
TOYED WITH  
ENDRA...

YOU  
CAN'T  
FOOL  
ME!

NO ONE HAD  
ANY IDEA SHE  
HAD EVEN  
BEEN SENT.

HE DO COURT  
WOMEN  
BEFORE HE MET  
PRINCESS TALL  
BUT...

HE CALLED  
OUR KING A  
ROMANTIC?

YOUR  
MAJESTY,  
PRINCESS  
ENDRA NEVER  
CAME TO  
HATTUSA.

YOUR  
MAJESTY?

OH  
DEAR,  
HE'S  
DREAMY!

SLUMP

I WATCHED  
WITH MY OWN  
EYES AS MY  
DAUGHTER  
DEPARTED!

DON'T  
LIE  
TO  
ME!

30000-510

AND WE DID  
RECEIVE A  
MESSAGE  
FROM A  
RELIABLE  
SOURCE  
THAT KING  
MURSEL II  
HAD KILLED  
HER WITH  
HIS OWN  
SWORD.

IT'S  
TRUE THAT  
PRINCESS  
ENDRA LEFT  
USARIT AND  
HEADED FOR  
HATTUSA

MAY I  
INTRO-  
DUCE  
MYSELF,  
ISHTAR  
?

MY NAME IS  
HELON, A  
MINISTER OF  
LIGHT.

HELON,  
WHO SENT  
YOU THAT  
MESSAGE?

AFTER  
THAT,  
OUR KING  
CAME  
IN TO  
DESPAIR...

...AND OUR  
NATION TO  
MISERY.



YOUR  
TAWAN-  
NAKU...

I SUSPECTED  
AS MUCH!

...NAKU,  
THE QUEEN  
DOWAGER  
OF YOUR  
EMPIRE.

SURELY  
SHE WOULD  
GIVE US  
TRUSTWORTHY  
INFORMATION.

I HAVE A  
REPORT,  
MA'AM!

HELLO,  
THAT  
MESSAGE  
...

OH GOD...

...WE'RE  
IN NO WAY  
READY!

THE RECON-  
NAISSANCE  
TEAM SENT TO  
CHECK ON THE  
EGYPTIANS  
HAS RETURNED!

THE  
EGYPTI-  
ANS...  
...ARE  
HEADING  
THIS  
WAY!

...GATHERING  
ON THE FAR  
BANK OF THE  
ORONTES  
RIVER!

I MUST  
ALSO  
REPORT...

...THAT  
THE  
EGYPTIAN  
FORCES  
ARE...



THE PAR  
RANK OF THE  
ORONTES?

THAT MEANS  
THEY'RE  
PRACTICALLY  
HERE!

WHO'S  
THEIR  
COM-  
MANDER?

WHO'S  
LEADING  
THE  
EGYPTIAN  
FORCE?

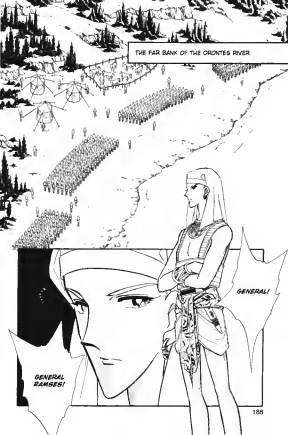
WE'VE  
LEARNED  
HIS NAME  
IS USER  
RAMSES.

A NEW  
GENERAL  
APPEARS TO  
BE IN  
COMMAND.  
NA'AM.



**RANGER!**

**TERRIFIC!  
ONE MORE  
THING WE  
DON'T  
NEED!**



THE FAR BANK OF THE GRONTES RIVER

GENERAL  
RAMSES!

GENERAL!



IT'S  
STRANGE, SIR.  
THERE SEEM  
TO BE NO  
DEFENSES  
PREPARED  
AGAINST US.

HOW DO  
THINGS  
LOOK?

WE SUSPECT  
THE ALLIANCE  
BETWEEN  
USARIT AND  
THE HITTTES  
IS BROKEN.

HOW  
FORTIFIED  
ARE  
USARIT'S  
DEFENSES?



THE  
HITTTT  
EMPIRE'S  
COMMANDER-  
IN-CHIEF.

INDEED?

YES, SIR.  
HITTTT  
TROOPS  
ARRIVED  
SEVERAL  
DAYS AGO TO  
A VERY COLD  
RECEPTION.

AND...  
IT'S A  
WOMAN  
THEY CALL  
HER YURI  
ISHTAR!

DID YOU FIND  
OUT WHO'S  
LEADING THE  
HITTTES?





WHAT?

YURI  
ISHTAR?



NO  
MATTER.  
THEY  
SHALL  
REGRET  
NOT GIVING  
US A  
PROPER  
WELCOME.

I FIND THIS  
INSULTING!  
DO THEY  
THINK WE'RE  
SOME  
SECOND RATE  
ARMY NOT  
WORTH THEIR  
TIME AND  
EFFORT?



LET'S  
ATTACK  
RIGHT  
NOW!

GENERAL,  
THIS IS  
GREAT!



...ON A  
PLATTER  
!

YES!

UGARIT'S  
BEEN  
HANDED  
TO US...



SMIRK

WHEN YOU  
FIND THE  
HITTITE  
COMMANDER-  
IN-CHIEF...

...BRING  
HER TO ME —  
ALIVE AND  
UNHARMED!

YURI!

THE  
GODS ARE  
GENEROUS...  
THEY'VE  
GIVEN ME  
ANOTHER  
CHANCE TO  
HAVE YOU!

ALL RIGHT  
MEN,  
FALL IN!  
WE MARCH  
ON LIGARIT!

